

THE DEPARTMENT WORKERS

Interesting Gossip Gleaned Among Employees of Government Bureaus.

ISAAC WALTER SHARP TELLS A GOOD STORY

He Describes One of His Fishing Expeditions in Which a Duck is Hauled in By the Angler—Mr. Willard Jerome Humes in Hard Luck.

Mr. Isaac Walter Sharp, or, as he is familiarly known probably all over the country, "Isak Walton" Sharp, is now residing in Washington, and is employed in the Government Printing Office as a proofreader. Mr. Sharp is a native of New Jersey, and while still a young man, has had a long and varied experience while following up the pleasant and exacting pastime of the rifle and rod and reel.

Mr. Sharp left home early in life and took up his abode in the wilderness of the Western mountains, where he hunted and fished with the Indians for many seasons, oftentimes not seeing a "paleface" in months. The Indians taught him to hunt and fish successfully, and today Mr. Sharp is recognized as one of the most skillful and successful gun and rod experts in the United States. Mr. Sharp was for several years a representative of the press, and has contributed a great deal of information concerning game, their breeding and killing seasons, and different stamping grounds.

Meeting Mr. Sharp in a sporting goods storehouse yesterday, during a short conversation, in which fishing soon became the topic under discussion, he said: "With the advent of spring a tour among the mountains is the ideal thing. The usual activity in the overhauling of rods, reels, lines, spoons, flies, and fishing paraphernalia generally, and the enthusiasm which has slumbered through the winter months has awakened with all its former vigor.

"Where are the best local places to fish? Why, right here, at Washington. Off Long Bridge, a great many bass are taken by bait fishermen. The vicinity of Chain Bridge, Little River, Little Falls, Peeter Dam, Seven Locks, Stubbfield Falls, Great Falls, George Washington, Seneca, Edwards' Ferry, Old 'Cat' Waters, at the mouth of the Monocacy, up the Monocacy, Tuscarora, Point of Rocks, Brunkow, Harper's Ferry, and Weverton, all are well known as being the points where large catches are made each season. Accommodations are good, boats can be had, and the minnows for bait are kept in live boxes from the beginning to the ending of the season.

"While fishing with a party of Washingtonians about Little Falls, last year, one of the party had a great many bass taken by bait fishermen. The vicinity of Chain Bridge, Little River, Little Falls, Peeter Dam, Seven Locks, Stubbfield Falls, Great Falls, George Washington, Seneca, Edwards' Ferry, Old 'Cat' Waters, at the mouth of the Monocacy, up the Monocacy, Tuscarora, Point of Rocks, Brunkow, Harper's Ferry, and Weverton, all are well known as being the points where large catches are made each season. Accommodations are good, boats can be had, and the minnows for bait are kept in live boxes from the beginning to the ending of the season.

"The heavens are yet resounding the echoes of the wild shout of laughter which pealed forth from a dozen throats when, at last, a poor, innocent 'gopher' duck succumbed to the pressure brought to bear upon the trusty steel rod in the fisherman's strong grasp, and came spluttering across the water to the hero of the hour. Proud of his prize, he tied it to a tree to prevent its escape, but subsequently the duck got away and into the canal, and all attempts to recapture it proved unavailing.

"The Anglers' Club, near Stubbfield Falls, is one of the most exclusive organizations in the vicinity of Washington, and its members are the cream of the Capital City's anglers hold membership therein."

Gen. Oscar F. Long, recently stationed at San Francisco, and Mrs. Long, are guests of Gen. M. L. Liddington, Quartermaster General U. S. A., and Mrs. Liddington, at their home, 1818 Q Street northwest.

The employees in the various departmental buildings, especially those who work at night, will experience much relief from the continual annoyance of getting their shoes saturated with grease and oil on the streets where the car lines run, when the companies are apprised by the District Commissioners that the dripping trucks are contrary to the police regulations and must be stopped.

Chief Engineer Robert W. Dutton of the Fire Department today received a letter from the Haitian minister inclosing a check for \$25 in recognition of his appreciation of the services of the fire department at the fire in the Legation building Wednesday evening. The donation was transmitted by Chief Dutton to Foreman James Keliber, treasurer of the Firemen's Relief Association. Minister Leger says he accounts it a special favor to be allowed to contribute to the firemen's fund.

Mr. Robert H. Chapman, a lecturer and well-known explorer in the service of the United States Geological Survey, delivered a very interesting and instructive discourse on "Our Northern Rockies" before the National Geographic Society at the National Rifle Hall last evening. His lecture was illustrated by many views taken during many summers he has spent in the northwestern mountains.

General Gillespie, chief of engineers, has appointed Col. Amos Stuckey and Major J. G. D. Knight and Thomas W. Symmes, Corps of Engineers, a board to meet at New Orleans to consider certain questions relating to the construction of Plaquemine lock and its approaches in Louisiana.

Mr. Willard Jerome Humes, of Massachusetts, of the agricultural division of the Census Office, was one of the recent number of employees of that department to be dismissed. Mr. Humes is a gentleman of refined tastes and manners, and was a great favorite among all with whom he came in contact. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he volunteered his services to his country, joining company C of the famous Second Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, and was an active and conspicuously brave participant

in the battles of El Caney and San Juan Hill. He did not receive any severe wounds, but his health, like that of thousands of others who braved the Cuban climate, was ruined by long spells of fever. Mr. Humes is a member of R. J. Harbin Command, Spanish War Veterans.

The War Department lost one of its clerks in the sudden death on Tuesday last of Mr. Roy A. Quackenbush. He was employed in the office of the Chief of Ordnance of the Army, and had previously served in a clerical capacity at the headquarters, Department of the Pacific.

Mr. Quackenbush had also served in the regular army, and at the outbreak of the Spanish war enlisted in Company B, First District Volunteer Infantry, and soon rose to the grade of first sergeant of that company, and was discharged therefrom at Montauk Point on the return of his regiment from Cuba. His remains were buried at Arlington with appropriate honors. He leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss.

One of the most thorough business men connected with the department service is Major Fred S. Hodgson. He was at one time connected with the District National Guard as major, and during the Spanish war held the rank of captain, being the commanding officer of Company G, First District of Columbia Volunteers. He was an ideal soldier, and greatly respected by his comrades. About two years ago Major Hodgson organized the Spanish War Guard, a military company composed of veterans of the Spanish war. This organization rapidly developed in numbers and proficiency, owing to Major Hodgson's popularity and untiring efforts. However, at a recent date, owing to almost ceaseless demands upon his time by the various business and sporting circles, the commanding officer has been obliged to resign, and is reluctantly to sever official connection with the Spanish War Guard.

First Lieut. Herbert W. Myers, for the same reason, has also resigned. Both resignations were accepted with regret. Major Hodgson is judge advocate general of the District Corps of Spanish War Veterans.

Mr. Leopold Burger, who won the second prize in The Times guessing contest yesterday, is a clerk in the Pension Office. Mr. Burger is a Mason, in good standing and a popular man with his fellow clerks. He is an enthusiast in the matter of baseball and out-of-door sports, and has been seen at the home of the home team players in Washington that does not see him occupying one of the seats.

During the latter part of the season just passed the United States Geological Survey undertook to investigate the water supply of Crow Creek, a small stream in southeastern Wyoming, upon which the city of Cheyenne, Fort D. A. Russell, and a considerable agricultural population are dependent for water for both irrigation and domestic purposes.

The creek has its source in the Laramie Mountains, and drains an area of great extent. Like most mountain streams, it carries a large volume of water during the spring months, and a limited quantity as the season advances—a quantity which has been severely taxed during the past few years.

The purpose of the investigation was to establish the fact, if possible, that there existed a reservoir of sufficient capacity within which the surplus water could be impounded at reasonable cost, to provide for the rapidly increasing demand.

In October, A. J. Parshall, the resident hydrographer, made a partial examination of the basin, completing the survey of two reservoirs, the larger of which an estimated show will contain 1,500 acre-feet of water which can be impounded by the construction of a masonry dam at a cost not exceeding \$60,000.

The hydrologist of the city of Cheyenne, when advised of the results of the investigation, promptly took steps to secure the site, to provide for the construction of the dam, and thereby increase the present water supply more than fourfold.

In order to keep up with the rush of business, the Commissioner of Patents has asked for thirty-five additional assistant examiners. They will be supplied as soon as the Civil Service Commission can examine candidates and certify them for the places. The Patent Office is behind in its routine work 10,000 cases, and with the increasing force can only keep abreast of the applications, several hundred employees in various grades being necessary to finish the back work and bring the records of the office up to date.

The recent revision of an act of Congress permitting the granting of patents upon the signature of the Commissioner of Patents alone, where it was formerly necessary that they be signed as well by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, has expedited the work, but it is still a long way behindhand with no prospect of catching up until more clerks are supplied.

A number of extracts in the form of detached papers have just been issued of Part V, Forest Reserves, of the twenty-first annual report of the United States Geological Survey. Under the existing laws the mapping of the Government forest reserves, and in addition is required to conduct a study of the forest and woodland, their distribution, the size and density of the timber, the distribution of the leading economic species, the damage inflicted by fires, the extent to which the forests are pastured, and the effects of deforestation and other related features.

The papers from the twenty-first annual report describe the progress of this work in the Lewis and Clark Reserves of Montana, the Olympic and Mount Rainier Reserves of Washington, the Ashland and Cascade Range Reserves of southern Oregon, and in the Stanislaus and Lake Tahoe Reserves of California. The distribution and character of the woodlands of Indian Territory, and the timber conditions of the Minnesota pine belt, are also reported. The papers are available on application to members of Congress.

hour of 2,450 tons. The maximum for one hour was 325 tons. Tasi Chen, son of Prince Ching, who is en route to London, where he will represent the Emperor of China at the coronation of King Edward, arrived here today. He paid a visit to Gen. Sir William Gage, commanding the military forces here, and was entertained at luncheon at the Hotel. He will inspect the Terrible tomorrow, and will later continue his journey to London.

He will inspect the Terrible tomorrow, and will later continue his journey to London.

Bears the Signature of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of

of